



## THOR

**Secret Identity:** None

**Played by:** CHRIS HEMSWORTH

**Powers/Abilities:** The Thunder God who wields a hammer called Mjolnir.

**Arch Nemesis:** Loki

**Love Interest:** Jane Foster

**First Comic/Avengers Appearance:** Venus #12 (1951), Avengers #1 (1963).

**When we last saw him:** "Thor" (2011) – Thor, the son of Odin, was banished from his home world of Asgard for disobeying his father's orders. On Earth, he is stripped of his powers and becomes a mortal. While on Earth, his adopted brother Loki has taken control and plans to start a war and kill Thor. Thor sacrifices himself, thus getting his powers back and able to defeat Loki. During the fight, the portal to Earth is destroyed and Thor is stuck back in Asgard. Before he left, he promised he'd return to see his romantic interest, Jane Foster.



## IRON MAN

**Not-So-Secret Identity:** Tony Stark

**Played by:** ROBERT DOWNEY JR.

**Powers/Abilities:** Robotic suit giving the ability to fly and fire various energy blasts and rockets, genius level intellect.

**Arch Nemesis:** Mandarin, Iron Monger, Justin Hammer.

**Love Interest:** Pepper Potts.

**First Comic/Avengers Appearance:** Tales of Suspense #39 (1963), Avengers #1 (1963).



**When we last saw him:** "Iron Man 2" (2010) – Tony Stark was spiraling out of control after learning that he was slowly being poisoned by his suit's power supply. Nick Fury, his boss, gives him some of his father's plans that included a new power source to save his life. Stark learns that he doesn't have to fight crime alone and defeats Whiplash with the help of War Machine. Fury then tells Stark that he's "unfit" to join the Avengers Initiative.



By MATT REINSTETLE | THE LEDGER

It took one phrase. One phrase to make the most hardened comic book fan giddy at the end of "Iron Man".....

## 'THE AVENGERS INITIATIVE'

What the casual moviegoer didn't know was that the most ambitious comic book film was being set in motion. Four more superhero films, several post-credit teasers and years of hype have led to this weekend.

"The Avengers," Marvel's All-Star superhero team, will hit the big screen in the wee hours of Friday. This film features an impressive collection of stars reprising the roles from their individual superhero films. "The Avengers" first made its comic debut in 1963 and was created by noted comic book writer Stan Lee and artist Jack Kirby.

Here is what you need to know to get up to speed on each of the Avengers.



## CAPTAIN AMERICA

**Secret Identity:** Steve Rogers

**Played by:** CHRIS EVANS

**Powers/Abilities:** Physically enhanced super soldier who throws a shield made from specialized steel that prevents vibration, expert leader.

**Arch Nemesis:** The Red Skull.

**Love Interest:** Peggy Carter (WWII), Sharon Carter (Present, in comic books).

**First Comic/Avengers/Appearance:** Captain America Comics #1 (1941), Avengers #4 (1964).

**When we last saw him:** "Captain America: The First Avenger" (2011) – Steve Rogers, a sickly Brooklyn native, was given the chance to fight in WWII by participating in an experimental super soldier program. He defeated the Red Skull and stopped his plan to bomb major U.S. cities. The Captain pilots the plane into the Arctic to prevent the bombs from going off but was unable to be found. He wakes up in present day New York and is recruited by Nick Fury to join S.H.I.E.L.D.



LOKI  
THE VILLAIN